

Turnaround School Operator Frequently Asked Questions

Universal Questions

Q: What is the timeline for the turnaround process?

A: Turnaround School Operators (TSOs) will spend the rest of this academic year evaluating and planning in preparation for the 2012-2013 academic year. Lead Partners will spend a few months integrating themselves into the school and assessing its needs before beginning to provide services.

Q: What occurs during the transition year?

A: During the transition year, TSOs will complete four phases of work, each of which is designed to contribute to the development of a comprehensive school turnaround plan.

- In phase one, the TSO will reach out to key stakeholders, including community members, to acquire a full assessment of the school.
- In phase two, the TSO will develop and begin to implement plans for evaluating staff.
- In phase three, the TSO will conduct a thorough evaluation of the school's core components such as curriculum, professional development, and community partners.
- Utilizing information gathered from the first three phases, the TSO will create a school turnaround plan in phase four that comprehensively describes its plan for transforming the school.

Q: How will the state pay for these interventions?

A: The Indiana Department of Education will support the implementation of these interventions with school improvement funds. The TSOs will utilize ADM funds (tuition support) when providing direct service in the 2012-2013 academic year.

Q: How will TSOs and Lead Partners be held accountable for their progress?

A: Turnaround academies operated by TSOs will be evaluated under the state's accountability system, just like all other public and scholarship schools will be. Working with the TSOs and Lead Partners, the Indiana Department of Education will establish annual goals for student achievement and growth as well as other key indicators of success such as non-waiver graduation rate and the percentage of students passing Advanced Placement exams.



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Family Focused Questions

Q: Will I be required to keep my student in his/her current school?

A: All families in the state of Indiana have diverse options from which to select the most appropriate education for their child. Families may keep their child at the current school, apply to a charter or magnet school, attend a voucher-approved private school or apply to transfer to a school outside of the district – these are the same choices afforded to all families with children in schools throughout the state.

Q: Will the school continue to have extra-curricular activities?

A: The TSO will strive to maintain established extra-curricular programs and activities that are beneficial to the students in the school.

Q: At the end of the observation year, what will happen to my student's teacher?

A: The TSO will comprehensively and fairly evaluate each staff member by the end of the observational year and will put in place the most effective staff of teachers possible.

Q: Will the school continue to have honors, Advanced Placement, or International Baccalaureate classes?

A: To ensure college-readiness, programs that enhance academic excellence will not only be maintained but expanded.

Q: Will the school continue to offer elective courses such as band and choir?

A: During the observation year, the TSO will determine which electives will be offered based on capacity, with the understanding that well-established elective programs benefit both students and the community.

Q: Will the school's name change?

A: The goal of the TSO is the reinvigorate the current program while preserving the heritage and pride of the school and community. Therefore, the school's name will not change.